

occasionally visit half a dozen families in a day; more frequently, however, only two or three, and sometimes only one; and it has repeatedly happened to me to spend a long summer day, riding in an open buggy under a broiling July sun, and find but one family of the Loomis name, and even that sometimes proves not to be descended from Joseph Loomis of Windsor. Sometimes, after encountering almost insurmountable difficulties in searching out some obscure family, I have found only an empty house and no one to be seen who could give me any such information respecting the owner as I desired. Notwithstanding every kind of discouragement I have steadily persevered, until I have made a pretty thorough canvass of every part of New England, of every part of the State of New York, of nearly every part of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and of the northern part of Ohio. I have also explored a number of cities further west, such as Detroit, Chicago and St. Louis. For the other Western States I have accomplished what I could by correspondence. This is, however, generally a very slow and uncertain process, for a correspondence can only be commenced after a certain amount of preliminary information, and many persons will not answer a letter addressed to them, while many others, even with the best intentions, have but a poor faculty of communicating information in writing.

The result of all my labors is a Catalogue of 8,686 persons bearing the Loomis name, and believed to be descended from Joseph Loomis of Windsor, besides the names of 4,682 persons who have intermarried with them. This is double the number of names contained in the first edition, and respecting many of the names in the first edition I have obtained much fuller information. I have made, therefore, considerable advance towards a complete list of the descendants of Joseph Loomis. There are not many additional names to be looked for except in the new States at the West.

Many persons wonder at my devoting so much time and labor to this research, and think I have some profound plan of making money. Some imagine there is a great fortune to be gained in England,—others think I am going to make a fortune by selling a vast number of copies of a book at an exorbitant price. I cannot think it strange that others should be surprised at my devot-